

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 TEL AVIV 000711

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

NEA FOR BURNS/SATTERFIELD/DIBBLE;  
NEA/SA/EX FOR RICHE; DEPT FOR DS/IP/NEA;  
DEPT FOR DS/IP/ITA; DRL FOR A/S CRANER;  
NSC FOR ABRAMS/DANIN;  
USAID FOR DCHA, DCHA/FPP, PRM FOR DEWEY/GREENE

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [KWBG](#) [PHUM](#) [PREL](#) [PTER](#) [ASEC](#) [CASC](#) [GZ](#) [IS](#)

SUBJECT: WB/G SITREP: PIJ AND AAMB INJURE FOUR IDF  
SOLDIERS IN THE WEST BANK; ONE PALESTINIAN KILLED AND TWO  
IDF SOLDIERS INJURED AT THE HAGOSH JUNCTION IN GAZA STRIP.  
FEBRUARY 4, 2005 (1600 HOURS LOCAL)

This is a joint Embassy Tel Aviv/ConGen Jerusalem cable.

1. (SBU) In the West Bank on February 3, the Palestinian Islamic Jihad and al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades wounded four IDF soldiers in a shooting attack south of Hebron. Eight international activists were lightly injured in clashes with the IDF when protesting the construction of the seamline barrier on February 1. Two Hamas members were arrested in Silwad and in Nablus. A 16-year-old Palestinian was arrested at the Huwara checkpoint carrying an explosive belt and a makeshift handgun with 20 bullets. The IDF went on high alert and imposed curfews in the Jerusalem area to prevent a terrorist attack. In the Gaza Strip, the IDF killed a Palestinian who opened fire and threw a hand grenade at them at the Hagosh junction. PA President Abu Mazen reportedly ordered the arrest of the planners of the attack. The IDF safely dismantled two explosive devices. End summary.

-----  
West Bank  
-----

2. (SBU) Attacks/Security:

-- Deaths: Nil

-- Injuries: According to Israeli and Palestinian sources, four IDF soldiers were wounded in a shooting attack south of Hebron near the settlement of Eshkolot on February 3. According to Palestinian sources, Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) and al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades claimed responsibility for the attack, but IDF sources say they are unsure the groups actually perpetrated the attack.

-- Injuries: According to Israeli and Palestinian media, eight international activists were lightly injured in clashes with the IDF when protesting the construction of the seamline barrier near Hebron on February 1.

--Shootings: According to Palestinian sources, shots were fired at an IDF jeep in the Nablus area. No injuries have been reported.

-- Arrests: According to Palestinian reports, IDF units arrested one Hamas member in Silwad, and another in Nablus on February 3.

-- Arrests: According to Israeli and Palestinian reports, IDF troops arrested a 16-year-old Palestinian Mahmoud Tabouq at Huwara checkpoint near Nablus on February 3. Tabouq was carrying an explosive belt in his bag, as well as a makeshift handgun with 20 bullets.

3. (SBU) Closures/Curfews:

-- According to Palestinian sources, the IDF imposed a curfew on the West Bank villages of Dahirya and was searching for Palestinian militants on February 3. According to Israeli sources, the IDF also imposed a curfew on the village of al-Burg.

-- According to Israeli and Palestinian reports, in Jerusalem the police went on high alert in the afternoon of February 3, imposing curfews of several hours on Abu Dis, Ezariya, and Sawareh villages and setting up roadblocks in the eastern parts of the city. Israeli police sources said that two Palestinians were arrested, thereby averting a terrorist attack. Israeli police sources could not give further details because of a court injunction.

-----  
Gaza Strip  
-----

4. (SBU) Attacks/Security:



-- Deaths: The IDF killed one Palestinian at the Hagosh junction when the Palestinian opened fire and threw a hand grenade at them on February 3. Two IDF soldiers were lightly injured. PA security sources suspect the DFLP was responsible. Negotiations Affairs Minister Sa'eb Erekat told the Consul General on February 4 that Abu Mazen ordered the arrest of anyone involved in the attack.

-- Explosives: The IDF reported that it dismantled an explosive device 1.5 km. northwest of the Rafah Terminal on February 3. There were no injuries.

-- Explosives: The IDF reported that it dismantled a 40 kg. explosive device 1 km. southwest of the Sufa crossing on February 3. There were no injuries.

-- Shooting: The IDF reported a shooting attack against an IDF patrol west of Rafah. There were no injuries.

15. (SBU) Closures/Curfews:

-- Abu Kholi Road was closed on February 4.

-- Erez was open on February 4. There was no information available on Erez Industrial Zone.

-- Karni crossing was closed on February 4.

-- Rafah Terminal was open for arrivals and departures with the limitation that Palestinian males must be over the age of 35 and have a foreign residence or be traveling on a medical emergency on February 4.

-- Sufa crossing was closed on February 4.

-- Salahadeen Road was open on February 4.

-- The Tel al-Sultan and Tufa checkpoints were closed on February 4.

\*\*\*\*\*

Visit Embassy Tel Aviv's Classified Website:

<http://www.state.sgov.gov/p/nea/telaviv>

You can also access this site through the State Department's Classified SIPRNET website.

\*\*\*\*\*

KURTZER